and Annual plan estimates in respect of National Highways passing through the State for its approval sanction of the amount; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Governments' decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) During 1998-99, 27 numbers Revised Estmates were received from the Government of Kerala. Out of these, 20 numbers Revised Estimates amounting to Rs. 30.83 Crore have been sanctioned.

Out of 37 works, included in Annual Plan 1998-99, 34 numbers of estimates totalling to Rs. 25 Crore have been received from the Government of Kerala and 24 numbers of estimates amounting to Rs. 16.5 Crore have been sanctioned.

Transparency in awarding road contracts by NHAI

2312. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news-item in the Economic Times dated the 12th February, 1999 captioned "IGM-GAYATRI to four lane Vijayawada-Guntur Road".

(b) whether IGM-GAYATRI is a public limited company;

(c) the details of experience and ownership of these concerns;

(d) whether it is incumbent on all awardees of such contracts to declare their ownership, etc.;

(e) what are the norms of transparency being introduced in all NHAI contracts; and

(f) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. IGM-Gayatri is a joint venture of IGM Corporation Berhad, Malaysia and M/s. Gayatri Project Ltd, Hyderabad.

(c) M/s. IGM Corporation Berhad is a public limited company engaged in the business of civil enginnering conduction. M/s. Gayatri Projects Ltd., is a private limited company incorporated under the Company's Act 1956 and is engaged in civil engiencering construction.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) Wide publicity through National and International dailies/ journals for application for prequalification of contractors, evaluation of the application by a Committee and concurrence therein of lending/funding agencies, -opening of financial bids in the presence of bidders, post qualification of bidders before award, evaluation of bids by a Committee and concurrence therein of the lending/funding agencies, etc. are among the important transparency norms being followed by National Highway Authority of India.

World Bank Assistance for construction of National Highways in Assam

2313. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank have given the financial aids to some projects of construction of roads in various parts of the country particularly in Assam; and

(b) if so, the names thereof and what amount will be spent thereon and by when these are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Constitutionally, Central Government is